

J. STATEMENT OF OVERRIDING CONSIDERATIONS

The FEIR identified and discussed significant effects which will occur as a result of the project. With implementation of mitigation measures discussed in the FEIR, these effects can be mitigated to levels of insignificance, except for unavoidable significant impacts which are discussed in Findings D, Sections II, VII and VIII, which relate to biological resources, transportation and circulation impacts and air quality impacts.

The Board of Directors of the District has balanced the benefits of the project against its unavoidable environmental risks and determines that the benefits of the project outweigh the unavoidable adverse environmental effects and, in light thereof, determine that the adverse environmental effects are considered acceptable. The Board makes this determination with respect to the benefits of the project based on the following overriding considerations:

Even with projected increases in waste diversion required by State law (AB 939 -Public Resources Code §§ 40,000 *et seq.*), a significant disposal capacity shortfall is likely to result if the project is not implemented. With additional landfill closures pending and increased population projected, a shortfall could grow to be almost 6,500 tons per day in 1995 and to more than 18,000 tons per day in the year 2003. These conditions are anticipated even with aggressive increases in waste diversion. Projects such as the Puente Hills MRF will be required to meet these aggressive waste diversion goals or the disposal capacity shortfall will worsen. Additional disposal capacity is needed and must be pursued both within the County and out-of-County to provide a reliable system for the long-term. The Board finds that the public benefits from the continued public ownership and operation of solid waste management facilities within this County as provided in the Solid Waste Management Action Plans previously approved by the District and the County of Los Angeles. The

project would provide in-County recycling capacity and the potential to use out-of-County disposal capacity, if available, through the operation of the materials recovery facility as a loading facility for a waste-by-rail system.

K. SECTION 15091 FINDINGS

Based on the foregoing findings and information contained in the record, the Board further finds:

- A. All significant effects on the environment due to the proposed project have been eliminated or substantially lessened to the extent feasible.
- B. Any remaining significant effects on the environment found to be unavoidable are acceptable due to the overriding concerns set forth in the foregoing Statement of Overriding Considerations.